

In the Claims:

1. (currently amended) Apparatus for releasing tablets from a blister pack containing a plurality of tablets, each held in a respective blister, the apparatus comprising receiving means for receiving the blister so that the pack is moveable on the receiving means, and an abutment member moveable into engagement with the blister in registry therewith so as to eject a tablet from that blister, wherein the apparatus includes indexing means for moving a blister pack on the receiving means to bring each of a succession of blisters in turn into registry with the abutment member, wherein the apparatus also includes an actuating member, so linked to the indexing means and the abutment member as to operate both, and wherein the indexing means comprises a rod pivotally attached to the actuating member, such that, in use, a succession of operating strokes of the actuating member causes the rod to engage the blister pack at each of a succession of positions along its length to move the blister pack along the receiving means in a step-wise fashion.
2. (cancelled)
3. (original) Apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the actuating member is so linked to the indexing means and the abutment member as to operate both by moving the actuating member through a single operating stroke.
4. (previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the actuating member is pivotally mounted on the receiving means, the abutment member forming part of, or being mounted on, the actuating member.
5. (cancelled)
6. (currently amended) Apparatus according to claim [[5]] 1, wherein the rod has a cross-piece at the end remote from the connection to the actuating member to enable the rod to engage a pair of corresponding blisters in parallel rows so as to eject two pills from the blister pack simultaneously.

7. (previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the receiving means comprises a tray having an end opening through which, in use, a blister pack is advanced in a step-wise fashion by the indexing means.

8. (original) Apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the tray includes a further opening through which a blister pack may be inserted into the tray.

9. (original) Apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the tray is flared at the further opening to facilitate insertion of a blister pack.

10. (currently amended) Apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the actuating member comprises a lid for the tray, so that ~~opening and~~ closing of the lid both ejects tablets and operates the indexing means.